

Amendments to the Specification:

Amend the paragraph on Page 7, beginning on Line 5 as follows:

One suitable polypropylene sheet material is commercially available from Kimberly-Clark Corporation as Part M-75. The material is available in various thicknesses; however, the thickness of the sorbent sheet material is not critical so ~~[[as]]~~ long as it satisfies the functional characteristics described herein. In one embodiment, a thickness of between about 1/8 inches and 3/8 inches has been found suitable for the gasket 310. It has been found that a gasket 310 about 3/8 inches thick will absorb at least 4 quarts of oil or grease per square yard. While the gasket 310 is formed substantially from polypropylene, it may comprise other materials, synthetic or manmade, in its construction.

Amend the paragraphs beginning of Page 8, Line 7 through Page 9, Line 19, as follows:

Referring now to Figure 4, an exploded view of a second aspect of the present invention is illustrated. As shown in Figure 4, the rooftop exhaust fan system 500 comprises an exhaust fan base 400, an exhaust fan unit ~~[[500]]~~520, and a gasket 300 formed of sorbent material positioned therebetween the exhaust fan unit ~~[[500]]~~520 and the base 400. As will be understood, the gasket 300 need only be dimensioned so that it is securely held between the periphery 410 of the base 400 and the periphery 510 of the exhaust fan ~~[[500]]~~520. So long as the gasket 300 is sandwiched between the peripheral edges 510, 410, the gasket 300 will suitably function as a seal and as an absorbent media for grease that would otherwise seep or migrate through the exhaust fan ~~[[500]]~~520 and base 400 interface.

Turning now to Figures 5 and 6A, the rooftop exhaust fan system of the present invention is shown in greater detail. When the device 300 of the present invention is installed on a typical rooftop exhaust fan unit, the gasket 310 is seated between the base 400 and the exhaust fan ~~[[500]]~~520. As shown in the figures, the gasket 310 is dimensioned, in one preferred embodiment, to extend outwardly around the entire periphery of the exhaust fan ~~[[500]]~~520 and base 400 interface. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, the greater the surface area and volume of the sorbent material, and hence, the device 300, the greater the capacity of the

device 300 to absorb grease that would otherwise seep through and leak out of the fan/pedestal interface.

It has been found that the device 300 may be dimensioned to extend outwardly a sufficient distance so that the flexible sorbent material on the exterior of the exhaust fan unit may be shaped and configured into a gutter 360 around the entire the periphery of the unit. As will be understood from the figures, that sorbent material which extends outwardly could be simply folded downward without forming a gutter 360, if desired; however, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, a strap 350 may be used to "draw up" the outwardly extending material. The ends 352, 354 or the strap 350 could then be connected together so that a portion of the gasket material is held upward. Strap 350 is positioned a sufficient distance from the periphery of the base 400 and fan ~~[[500]]~~520 so that the portion of sorbent material extending outwardly to the strap 350 may be easily shaped into a gutter 360, or pocket, form. Strap 350 thus facilitates shaping and holding the gutter 360 in place. The corners 310c, d, e, and f will be slightly upturned when the strap 350 is drawn up. Additionally, as best shown in Figures 3 and 6, perforations 330 are so located on the gasket 310 that some of them are positioned at the lower part of the gutter 360 when the device 300 is installed. This facilitates the drainage of water through the gutter 360, while any grease is contained in the gutter 360.

Amend the paragraph on Page 9, beginning on Line 3 as follows:

It has been found that the device 300 may be dimensioned to extend outwardly a sufficient distance so that the flexible sorbent material on the exterior of the exhaust fan unit may be shaped and configured into a gutter 360 around the entire ~~[[the]]~~ periphery of the unit. As will be understood from the figures, that sorbent material which extends outwardly could be simply folded downward without forming a gutter 360, if desired; however, as shown in Figures 5 and 6, a strap 350 may be used to "draw up" the outwardly extending material. The ends 352, 354 or the strap 350 could then be connected together so that a portion of the gasket material is held upward. Strap 350 is positioned a sufficient distance from the periphery of the base 400 and fan 500 so that the portion of sorbent material extending outwardly to the strap 350 may be easily shaped into a gutter 360, or pocket, form. Strap 350 thus facilitates shaping and holding the gutter 360 in place. The corners 310c, d, e, and f will be slightly upturned when the strap 350

Appl. No. 10/714,145

Amdt. dated November 18, 2005

Reply to Office Action of August 25, 2005

is drawn up. Additionally, as best shown in Figures 3 and 6, perforations 330 are so located on the gasket 310 that some of them are positioned at the lower part of the gutter 360 when the device 300 is installed. This facilitates the drainage of water through the gutter 360, while any grease is contained in the gutter 360.